

New Year's Eve

December 31, 2024



Word, Prayer, & Song Service

1 Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year With
2 Re - mem - ber now - ly the Son - of God And
3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; This
4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds The

2025

thanks em-brace An - oth - er year of grace.
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ST. JOHN'S

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

P We close out the year in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Responses: TLH #110 *“Across the Sky the Shades of Night”*

C *♫ Across the sky the shades of night*

This New Year’s Eve are fleeting.

We deck Thine altar, Lord, with light,

In solemn worship meeting;

And as the year’s last hours go by,

We raise to Thee our earnest cry,

Once more Thy love entreating.

Confession of Our Sins

We approach God recognizing that we are sinful and need His forgiveness.

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

C *♫ Before the cross subdued we bow,*

To Thee our prayers addressing,

Recounting all Thy mercies now,

And all our sins confessing;

Beseeking Thee this coming year

To keep us in Thy faith and fear

And crown us with Thy blessing.

C Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus’ sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

☩ *♪ We gather up in this brief hour
The memory of Thy mercies:
Thy wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r
Our grateful song rehearses;
For Thou hast been our Strength and Stay
In many a dark and dreary day
Of sorrow and reverses.*

P Jesus Christ is the satisfactory payment for our sins, and not for our only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:

☩ *♪ Then, O great God, in years to come,
Whatever may betide us,
Right onward through our journey home
Be Thou at hand to guide us;
Nor leave us till at close of life
Safe from all perils, toil, and strife,
Heaven shall enfold and hide us.*

Confession of Faith

Explanation of the 1st Article

☩ I believe that God has created me and all creatures. He has given me my body and life, eyes, ears, and all my bodily members, my mind, and all my senses and still keeps them for me.

God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all my property and all I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger. He guards and defends me from every evil.

God does all this because He is my good and gracious Father in heaven, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it. For all of this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.



Through the Church Year In Word, Song, and Prayer



- P** Lord God, we are glad and thankful to be here this New Year's Eve to honor You and to receive blessing from Your Holy Word. Be with us in our worship and bless our fellowship together for Your mercy's sake. Teach us, encourage us, strengthen us, and enable us throughout the New Year so that we flee temptation and honor You in all that we think, say, and do. Hear and receive our prayers this evening and accept the praise we bring as we lift our voices in song and prayer. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Advent



Matthew 3:1-6

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" ⁴ Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks to You, and as we focus our thoughts on that season of the church year when You prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Savior's birth, we pray that in this season when we are reminded so much of the precious gift of salvation which your divine love has given to the world through the prophecies of hope and comfort, that you would stir up in our hearts a willingness to be a blessing to those You bring into our lives. Amen.

Advent Hymn: TLH #66

"Hark the Glad Sound"

Christmas



Luke 2:1-11

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.



P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks unto You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, the Light of the world. The message of Salvation in Christ's name is meant to gladden every heart. And so, we pray this Christmas season—send out the light of your name into the hearts of those who do not yet have the sure and certain hope of salvation through Your life, death, and resurrection. Amen.

Choir

"Emmanuel, God with Us"

Christmas Hymn: TLH #92:1-2

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

Epiphany



Matthew 8:5-13

When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶ "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." ⁷ And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸ But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

P Lord God, Jesus Christ, You came bringing life and light and hope to a world that lies in spiritual darkness and under the shadow of darkness. As the wise men from the East came to worship You, this began Your epiphany, the revelation of God's grace to all mankind. For this we praise and thank your holy name. Amen.

Epiphany Hymn: TLH #134:1,3,5

"Songs of Thankfulness..."

Lent



Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the

people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.



P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks unto You that You sent Your only Son to die for our sins on the cross. Your love is made so evident during the Lenten season of the church year, for there is no greater demonstration of true love than the willing sacrifice that our Savior made on our behalf. Humble us at Your throne of grace as we repent of our sins during this season and throughout the year, that we may truly appreciate the forgiveness we have in Christ. Amen.

Lenten Hymn: TLH #159:1-3

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

Easter



1 Corinthians 15:17-20

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸

Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, Easter is such a glorious and splendid celebration of Your grace and mercy. As we look forward to this celebration, focus our thoughts and the intentions of our hearts on spreading this most important news of the resurrection. Our hope and courage is found in this truth, that we shall not die, but we shall all be changed, in the twinkling of an eye when our Savior raises us from the dead to live eternally. In 2024, two of our brothers-in-Christ, Bob Dronen and Steve Sumey, were called from this vale of tears to the eternal joys of heaven. We praise You, O Lord, for founding and preserving them in their faith. As we long for the day when we will join them around Your heavenly throne, keep this thought ever before us: "I know that my Redeemer lives, what comfort this sweet sentence gives, He lives, He lives, who once was dead, He lives my ever-living head!" Amen.

Easter Hymn: TLH #200:1, 2, 8 *"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"*

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

Pentecost



Joel 2:28-32

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons

and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. ³⁰ "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ³² And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

P O Holy Spirit, Divine Counselor and Comforter, on Pentecost You established the Holy Christian Church, and we benefit from Your coming even today. Continue to bless the Word of Truth, by which You bring sinners to repentance and faith. Divine Helper, having brought us to faith and called us to righteousness, You have commissioned our bodies as living temples for You to dwell. Continue to remind us that we are God's beloved children by faith in Christ and fill us with grace and zeal to be bold witnesses of our Lord. Amen.

Pentecost Hymn: TLH #230

"Holy Spirit, God of Love"

Trinity Sunday & Season



Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

P Holy, Holy, Holy is Your name, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our hearts sing the praises of Your holy name as we cry out "Abba, Father" in our heartfelt prayers. And as we turn to Your Son Jesus Christ in repentance and faith—trusting in Him alone for salvation—and to the Holy Spirit who works in us to will and to do the good pleasure of our God, lead us and guide us to give honor to the Trinity in all that we do and say. Teach us to put our trust and hope not in the things of this world, but rather in the sure and certain love that You have so lavishly demonstrated time and time again throughout history and in our day-to-day lives. And so, we entrust young Lyle and Bennett Liepold to your care. With full confidence of your love for them and their parents, Austin and Laura, we ask that you be with them and that your gracious will be done. Amen.

Trinity Hymn: TLH #248:1-3

"Father of Glory, to Thy Name"

End of the Church Year



Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. This is a comforting truth as we remember our brothers and sisters in Christ whom You have abundantly blessed by taking them from this world of sin and sorrow to be with You for eternity. As we consider our lives and the blessings You have bestowed upon us, help us to focus our lives on the goal, the gift of eternal life. Teach us to live not for the things of this world but rather to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust can destroy. Lord Jesus, You have promised to return, so help us to ever look forward to that day with hope and expectation, trusting Your promise to take us to that heavenly home which You have personally prepared. Amen.

End Times Hymn: TLH #609:1-2 *"Wake, Awake, for Night..."*

✠ The Sacrament of Holy Communion ✠

The Words of Institution

Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always! **G Amen.**

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

Distribution Hymns:

TLH #316; WS #754; TLH #309

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

G Amen!

Hymn: WS #800

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Poinsettias – If you would like to take home a poinsettia from the sanctuary, please feel free to do so!

Teach Us to Number Our Days

Have you made your New Year's resolutions? According to one survey, the top three resolutions for 2025 are saving money, reducing stress, and spending less time on social media. Maybe you've decided on something else like exercising more or eating better. There are all kinds of worthwhile goals to pursue, and the beginning of a new year may be just the incentive we need to put out the effort. We want to make the most of the days and months ahead.

In Psalm 90 Moses made a type of resolution too. It's in the form of a prayer seeking God's help to make it happen. In v. 12 he wrote, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." There are all kinds of resolutions which make a lot of sense from a worldly point of view. But Moses was looking for something far more important—real wisdom. It is not just knowing what is good for this life, but what has eternal importance and meaning. That wisdom comes only from God. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10). The most important thing we can do in the new year is to use it to prepare for eternity. The best resolution we can make is to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33).

It would be fitting to begin each day asking that the Lord would "teach us to number our days." May we view them as a time of grace in which to take to heart what Scripture says about our sinful condition, and then to seek Jesus as the wise men did in order to worship him as the Son of God and Savior. May the Spirit through the message of Christ grant us godly resolve and true wisdom for the year ahead.



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